ABSTRACT

Modified antiviral peptides with increased activity and cell membrane affinity

The activity and cell membrane affinity of certain antiviral multiple branch peptide constructions, including those known from WO 95/07929, WO 98/29443 and WO 03/95479, can be improved by bonding to the C-end of the peptide a terminator which is either (a) an ω-amino-fatty acid having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms and from 0 to 2 carbon-carbon double bonds or (b) a peptidic cell membrane penetrating agent. The improvement is so marked that in some cases the number of branches can be reduced, sometimes to a single branch, and/or that the branches may be shortened.

The preferred ω-amino-fatty acids are γ-aminobutyric acid, δ-aminovaleric acid and ϵ-aminocaproic acid. The peptidic cell membrane penetrating agent is suitably a TAT-derived peptide, penetratin® or Kpam.